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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 43
The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 7 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As a representative of the State chairing the statutory bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the heads of the CIS States members on the situation in Afghanistan, adopted on 30 November 2001 in Moscow (see annex).

I should be grateful, if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

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Annex to the letter dated 7 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the situation concerning Afghanistan

Adopted on 30 November 2001

We, the heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), assess positively the conduct of the anti-terrorist operation by the international coalition in Afghanistan. We note that its coordination with the successful military action by the forces of the United Front has made it possible to strike a serious blow at the infrastructure of global terrorism and extremism in the territory of Afghanistan, including the Taliban, and is promoting the strengthening of general regional security and international stability.

We firmly advocate that the struggle by the world community against global terrorism should be conducted on a comprehensive and long-term basis in accordance with international law, and, first and foremost, the Charter of the United Nations. In order to eradicate the hotbeds of instability in Afghanistan, it is necessary to combine in a flexible manner measures based on force and political, legal and economic measures for bringing pressure to bear on the sources of the terrorist, extremist and drug threats. We emphasize that confronting terrorism, which has no specific national or regional face, is not a struggle against Islam or separate countries.

We declare our support for the process of a political settlement in Afghanistan under the auspices of the United Nations leading to the replacement of the Taliban regime, which has lost the right to be represented in power structures, and to the formation in the country of a multi-ethnic and broadly representative government, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1378 (2001). We stress that determining the future of Afghanistan is the exclusive and inalienable right of the Afghans themselves, who are faced with the task of building a renewed State that lives in peace and harmony with its neighbours and the international community as a whole, and we call for increased humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people and the elaboration of a broad international programme for the post-war restoration of Afghanistan's national economy.

We confirm our States' firm intention to take all necessary steps to ensure security in the territory of the CIS States members and to participate actively in setting up a global system to counteract terrorism in close cooperation with all interested countries and international organizations, with the leading role played by the United Nations and its Security Council.

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 122
Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the second report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/56/674). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided it with additional information and clarification.

2. The Advisory Committee notes that, as in the past, the scope of the report is financial only and will be supplemented by a report on programme implementation, which will be submitted for consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the General Assembly. In this regard, the Committee recalls its observation that the goal of performance reporting should be to relate financial data to programme performance, and that additional efforts should be made by the Secretariat to consider, in the long term, combining the two sides of budget performance into a single performance report (see A/52/742, para. 1).

3. As indicated in paragraph 1 of the performance report, the anticipated final level of expenditure and of income for the biennium represents a net increase of $28.9 million compared with the revised appropriations and estimates of income approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/239 of 23 December 2000. The projected expenditure for the biennium 2000-2001 is estimated at $2,560.9 million gross, which reflects an increase of $27.8 million. The projected income is estimated at $379.7 million, which reflects a decrease of $1.1 million compared with the revised income estimates of $380.8 million for the biennium.

4. As indicated in paragraph 1 of the report, the anticipated final expenditure and income figures for the biennium 2000-2001 are based on actual expenditures for the first 20 months, projected requirements for the last 4 months and changes in

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inflation and exchange rates and cost-of-living adjustments as compared with the assumptions made in the first performance report (A/55/645 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

5. As can be seen from paragraph 2 of the performance report, the net increase in requirements of $28.9 million reflects the combined effect of: (a) projected additional requirements due to changes in exchange rate assumptions ($10.4 million), changes in inflation assumptions ($9.1 million), commitments entered into in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/252 of 23 December 1999 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, and in respect of the revised estimates and the programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council ($14.5 million) and a decrease of $1.1 million in income; and (b) reduced requirements of $6.2 million due to variations in post costs and adjustments to other objects of expenditure, based on actual anticipated requirements.

6. The additional requirement relating to changes in exchange rate ($10.4 million) and inflation assumptions ($9.1 million) is explained in paragraphs 6 to 12 of the performance report, and the details regarding the assumed and actual rates of exchange are contained in schedules 4 and 5 of the report; table 1 provides information on exchange rate and inflation changes by duty station.

7. The total additional requirements of $14.5 million relating to commitments entered into in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/252 of 23 December 1999 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, and in respect of the revised estimates and the programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council are discussed in paragraphs 13 to 16 of the performance report.

8. Information on the projected reduced requirements of $6.2 million in post incumbency and other changes is contained in paragraphs 17 to 39 and in schedules 1, 2, 3 and 8 of the performance report. As indicated in paragraph 20, the budgeted vacancy rate, as reflected in the first performance report (A/55/645 and Corr.1 and Add.1) and based on experience in 2000, was 8.3 per cent for the Professional category and above and 2.6 per cent for the General Service category for the first year of the biennium and 6.5 per cent for the Professional category and above and 2.5 per cent for the General Service category for the second year of the biennium. However, the 2001 realized level of vacancies, on the basis of experience from January through September 2001, amounted to 6.9 per cent for the Professional category and above and 3.2 per cent for the General Service category (see para. 21 of the report).

9. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 23 (b) of the report that the variation between the budgeted and realized vacancy rates for large budget sections with exceptionally high vacancy rates, such as 16, 20, 24, 27 and 30, reflects the delays in, inter alia, recruitment, appointment and/or promotion to posts, separations and placement for vacancies.

10. The Advisory Committee recalls that it had recommended that future performance reports indicate the amount of unliquidated obligations included in estimated expenditures for the biennium (see A/52/742, para. 11). In this connection, the Committee notes the Secretary-General's observation in paragraph 39 of his report that "it is not feasible to predefine the exact level of unliquidated obligations

anticipated for the close of the biennium. As a point of reference, the amount of unliquidated obligations at the end of September 2001 stood at $161.7 million".

11. **The Committee holds the view that performance information reflected in a number of paragraphs of the report could have been more detailed.** For example, the Committee sought clarification on savings in training activities and was informed that

> "the total amount shown as a reduction under contractual services ($2,364,600) in section 27C, Office of Human Resources Management, reflects underutilization of funds under the central training programme. In part, an amount of $960,100 has been redeployed for maintenance, through temporary assistance arrangements, of an adequate programme support capacity for the training which currently appears to be inadequate in the light of a substantial expansion of the training programme over the last two bienniums. Furthermore, on the basis of the programme delivery data and of the expenditure pattern experienced during the biennium, it has been estimated that the balance of $1,404,500 would remain unutilized. This is basically due to cancellation or postponement of a number of staff development activities, including certain training courses, seminars and other training activities, some of which would take place in the year 2002".

12. Moreover, the Committee sought clarification on "non-utilization of the one-time provision to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women for 2001" referred to in paragraph 32 of the report and was informed that there were several periods in 2000 and 2001 when the post of the Director of the Institute was vacant; on this basis and in view of underspending in other areas, it was estimated that voluntary contributions were sufficient to meet the requirements of the Institute for 2001. The Committee was also informed that, should any decision be made by the General Assembly to encumber those funds, the final appropriation for 2000-2001 would have to be adjusted upwards from the second performance report level to accommodate such assistance in as appropriate an amount as the General Assembly sees fit.

13. The Advisory Committee was provided upon request with a breakdown of savings under travel indicating separately variances in travel expenses relating to the travel of representatives and the travel of staff. This information is contained in the annex and **it should be included in future performance reports**.

Annex

Second performance report for the biennium 2000-2001
Variances in travel expenses by section

Increases/(decreases) in thousands of United States dollars

Section		*Travel of representatives*	*Travel of staff*	*Total*
1.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	(827.8)	327.1	(500.7)
2.	General Assembly affairs and conference services	(49.5)	173.9	124.4
3.	Political affairs	(494.0)	(118.6)	(612.6)
4.	Disarmament	-	96.3	96.3
5.	Peacekeeping operations	-	(1 106.9)	(1 106.9)
6.	Peaceful uses of outer space	-	(0.6)	(0.6)
7.	International Court of Justice	-	(8.2)	(8.2)
8.	Legal affairs	(191.8)	(24.0)	(215.8)
9.	Economic and social affairs	(237.8)	(198.3)	(436.1)
10.	Africa: New Agenda for Development	-	6.9	6.9
11A.	Trade and development	(161.1)	142.2	(18.9)
12.	Environment	(24.0)	3.2	(20.8)
13.	Human settlements	-	18.7	18.7
14.	Crime prevention and criminal justice	(186.7)	32.7	(154.0)
15.	International drug control	(260.8)	(136.4)	(397.2)
16.	Economic and social development in Africa	-	492.2	492.2
17.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	-	(261.1)	(261.1)
18.	Economic development in Europe	-	58.8	58.8
19.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	-	243.7	243.7
20.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	-	129.0	129.0
22.	Human rights	(1 294.5)	(288.9)	(1 583.4)
25.	Humanitarian assistance	-	(46.9)	(46.9)
26.	Public information	68.2	(240.6)	(172.4)
27.	Management and central support services	-	206.0	206.0
	A. Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management		(30.3)	(30.3)
	B. Office of Progamme Planning, Budget and Accounts		-	-
	C. Office of Human Resources Management		(69.5)	(69.5)
	D. Office of Central Support Services		247.9	247.9
	E. Administration, Geneva		44.5	44.5
	F. Administration, Vienna		13.5	13.5
	G. Administration, Nairobi		(0.1)	(0.1)
28.	Internal oversight	-	59.1	59.1
30.	Special expenses	-	(81.0)	(81.0)
TOTAL		**(3 659.8)**	**(521.7)**	**(4 181.5)**

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 42
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 11 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you as follows:

On 21 November 2001 Israeli warplanes overflew the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the South at high altitudes, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 2135 hours on 24 November and 0100 hours on 25 November 2001 an Israeli warplane circled over the sea between Sidon and Rumaylah, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1009 and 1040 hours on 25 November 2001 an Israeli warplane flew over the sea off Tyre heading towards Beirut, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1340 and 1422 hours on 28 November 2001 two Israeli warplanes flew over the sea west of Tyre heading north. They circled between Beirut and the South, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 2110 and 2355 hours on the same day an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the sea off Tyre heading north. It flew in circles along the coast between Tyre and Beirut, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

At 1133 hours on 26 November 2001, while personnel from Observer Group Lebanon were patrolling between the town of Ayn al-Luwayzah and the water pumps at the Wazzani spring, a soldier with the Israeli enemy forces positioned in the town of Ghajar trained his rifle on them.

The Israeli aerial violations indicated above confirm that Israel is continuing to provoke Lebanon and to attack the country. These violations are in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of Lebanon's sovereignty, and they pose a threat to security and stability in the region.

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Agenda items 41 and 42

Question of Palestine

The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 7 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration of the Rio Group on the subject of the crisis in the Middle East, issued in Santiago on 5 December 2001 (see annex).

On behalf of the States members of the Rio Group, I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 41 and 42.

(*Signed*) Juan Gabriel **Valdés**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration on the Middle East*

In view of the very serious deterioration of the situation in the Middle East, which is witnessing a succession of violent acts involving and affecting the authorities and peoples of Israel and Palestine, the Rio Group has agreed to:

1. Call upon the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority to do their utmost to bring an immediate halt to all acts of violence, as recommended in the Mitchell report, so as to restore the minimum conditions of confidence necessary to prevent a deterioration of the present situation, which poses a threat to security and peace in the region and in the world.

2. Reiterate the Declaration made on 14 November 2001, in New York, by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group concerning the crisis in the Middle East.

3. Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue making every effort to bring about a rapprochement between the parties.

In order to contribute to the achievement of the above-mentioned objectives, the Rio Group will join with other countries of the international community and, in particular, with other regional groups such as the European Union, in the efforts to achieve that same objective of peace and security.

The Secretariat pro tempore will promptly communicate the text of this pressing appeal and position of the Rio Group to the Government of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority. It will also take steps to have the secretariat of the United Nations Security Council circulate this declaration among the members of that organ for their information.

Santiago, Chile, 5 December 2001

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* Previously issued in S/2001/1170.